



Technical Summary for Mailers

Scope

This fact sheet is provided as a courtesy to our external mailers and is purely informational in nature. Its intent is solely to provide a brief overview of the proposed barcode data elements of the newly defined tray label. It should not be used for any other purpose whatsoever, including the manufacture and/ or implementation of a tray label production system. When the detailed tray label specifications are formally published, they shall be made available to the mailer community.

Background

The Postal Service is rapidly moving ahead with the implementation of its Intelligent Mail and Mail Visibility strategies in support of the Transformation Plan. The Intelligent Mail vision is to code all mail, aggregates, and business forms, each with a standard information-rich code that enables maximum internal and customer utilization of the embedded and derived information. Unfortunately, the current 10-digit tray/sack label format does not uniquely identify the handling unit. The newly defined 24-digit Enhanced Distribution Label (EDL) and its variants provide unique identification of the handling unit in addition to identifying the originator of the mail.

The Automated Tray Label Assignment System (ATLAS), a key enabler of the Mail Visibility Strategy is a replacement for the USPS' current PASSPORT label production system. ATLAS is an integrated suite of applications to support the production, standardization and management of these new unique EDL formatted labels. The Global ATLAS External Application (GAEA) server shall host the Web ATLAS externally facing application and will allow Mailers to produce labels and/or submit label orders online.

Eight EDL types with unique information requirements have been defined. The mailer label types, namely Label Type 1 – Large Mailers to the USPS and Label Type 8 – Small Mailers to the USPS, reflect the movement of mail from the customer to its final delivery unit destination. To maintain uniqueness of the barcode, the USPS has mandated that barcode data for these label types be unique for 30 days.

There are two new EDL formats, the transitional 10/24-digit label, and the final 24-digit label. The transitional 10/24-digit label, retains the current 10-digit Postal routing barcode in its native Automatic Identification Manufacturers (AIM)/ Uniform Symbology Specification (USS) I 2 of 5 format and adds the ISS code 128 24-digit EDL to the same label (see Figure 1). This allows the current 10-digit Postal routing barcode to be linked to the newly defined unique 24-digit EDL barcode (see Figure 2). This short term strategy provides the creation of a label that can be immediately deployed within the existing USPS environment without negatively impacting operational processes while allowing incremental adoption of all standards as our technology infrastructure is upgraded. The final 24-digit EDL format has added human readable information and displays only one barcode, the ISS code 128 24-digit barcode. Furthermore, the current 10-digit barcode has been modified to reflect the transition to the final 24-digit EDL format. It has all the same human readable information as this final format but retains the current I 2 of 5 10-digit barcode.

Transitional 10+24 Digit EDL Format



Figure 1

Final 24-Digit EDL Format



Figure 2

The tables below provide details on the barcode data elements for the EDL mailer barcodes.

Table I. Customer to U.S. Postal Service Current 10-Digit Definition

Element	Digits	Definition
ZIP Code:	1 – 5	The ZIP code identifies the tray/sack's destination. For trays prepared as five-digit trays in accordance with the USPS DMM, the destination ZIP Code shall be the five-digit ZIP Code without modification. For trays prepared as three-digit trays in accordance with the USPS DMM, the destination ZIP Code shall be the three-digit ZIP Code appended by double zero.
CIN:	6 – 8	The CIN describes the contents of the tray/sack based on the 3-Digit Content Identifier Numbers list in USPS DMM M032. If no listing for the tray contents is found, three zeros must be used.
DOD:	9	The Day of Delivery identifies the day that a First Class Mail unit load shall be delivered per service standards. However, Mailers shall not assign a day of delivery; zero (0) shall be used as the ninth digit.
MPC:	10	The Mail Processing Code (MPC) is a code that defines where on the automation ladder the mail can be processed.

Table II. 6-digit Business Entity ID-to –Postal Service (Mailer)

Barcode Element	Digits	Definition
ZIP Code	1–5	The ZIP code identifies the tray/sack's destination. For trays prepared as five-digit trays in accordance with the USPS DMM, the destination ZIP Code shall be the five-digit ZIP Code without modification. For trays prepared as three-digit trays in accordance with the USPS DMM, the destination ZIP Code shall be the three-digit ZIP Code appended by double zero.
CIN	6–8	The CIN describes the contents of the tray and sack. The source of these values is the latest CIN list released by U.S. Postal Service Logistics for Mailers as published in the latest release of the DMM.
Label Source	9	The Label Source identifies the system or facility that generated the label.
Business Entity ID	10–15	The Business Entity ID field is a unique six-digit USPS assigned number used to identify each mailer, i.e., the business or organization that prepared the tray or sack.
Optional Program Field	16–18	A three-digit optional field that can be used for expanded Serial Number. The data content is assigned by the Mailer (with USPS approval). When not used for specific data, this field shall be filled with "000".
Serial Number	19–23	The Serial Number is a unique five-digit number for each tray or sack.
Label Type 1	24	The Label Type is used as a qualifier for systems to recognize and parse the data within this barcode. For Label Type 1, 6-digit Business Entity ID-to-Postal Service, the value is 1.

Table III. 9-digit Business Entity ID-to –Postal Service (Mailer)

Barcode Element	Digits	Definition
ZIP Code	1–5	The ZIP code identifies the tray/sack's destination. For trays prepared as five-digit trays in accordance with the USPS DMM, the destination ZIP Code shall be the five-digit ZIP Code without modification. For trays prepared as three-digit trays in accordance with the USPS DMM, the destination ZIP Code shall be the three-digit ZIP Code appended by double zero.
CIN	6–8	The CIN describes the contents of the tray or sack. The source of these values is the latest CIN list released by U.S. Postal Service Logistics for Mailers as published in the latest release of the DMM
Label Source	9	The Label Source identifies the system or facility that generated the label.
9-digit Business Entity ID	10–18	The Business Entity ID field is a unique nine-digit USPS assigned number used to identify each mailer, i.e., the business or organization that prepared the tray or sack.
Serial Number	19–23	The Serial Number is a unique 5-digit number for each tray or sack.
Label Type 8	24	The Label Type is used as a qualifier for systems to recognize and parse the data within this barcode. For Label Type 8, 9-digit Business Entity ID-to-Postal Service, the value is 8.

Timeline for Roll-out of EDL/ATLAS

The initial rollout of ATLAS to 131 Postal facilities was completed in FY 2005. An additional 330 Postal facilities will be implemented in 2006. After an introductory phase-in period (to be determined), the use of the new EDL formatted labels will be offered to our external customers. The initial offering will be limited to the transitional 10/24-digit label format.